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NEWS

Winchester News looks back at top 10 stories of 2024

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF WRITER

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What were the top 10 stories of 2024 for Winchester residents reading the Winchester News? FILE PHOTO

Welcome to 2025, an as yet untapped year full of potential. Looking back to last year, Winchester was busy with new businesses, new regulations and newly passed articles at Town Meeting which will reach far into the future.

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But as we look forward to the new year, the Winchester News looked back at 2024 to see what residents were reading on our website.

Here's a look at the Top 10 most popular stories of 2024:

Police broke up fights at the En Ka Fair on May 18, 2024. No weapons were found at the fights. FILE PHOTO

1) Winchester Police break up fights at En Ka Fair

Winchester Police on May 18 broke up fights at the En Ka Fair, as the last night of the weekend was wrapping up. Police quickly investigated, finding a group from Woburn responsible for the incident.

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Winchester letter carrier Corey Marsden suffered a devastating house fire, leaving the single mother of two with nothing. But Winchester residents rallied around her to help. COURTESY PHOTO/COREY MARSDEN

2) Tragic house fire spurs community support for Winchester mail carrier

On July 20, a fire destroyed the family home of Corey Lyons Marsden, leaving the single mother of two daughters, ages 10 and 9, with nothing. The tragedy came just four years after the loss of her husband, compounding the challenges she faces in raising her children alone.

Marsden has been a dedicated mail carrier at the Winchester Post Office, admired by many local residents.

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Mamadou's Artisan Bakery, located at 63 Swanton St., was closed following an accident on Dec. 21, 2024 when a car crashed through a side wall. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY

3) Winchester bakery closed after car crashes through wall

On, Dec. 21, a car crashed into the outer wall of Mamadou's Artisan Bakery located at 63 Swanton St., leaving the business with no heat or heat following the accident Saturday evening.

Police determined the driver had tried to avoid another car, making a left turn onto Florence Street, skidding and crashing into the electrical panel outside the business.

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Winchester Police in May identified a group of teens who instigated a fight at the En Ka Fair. COURTESY PHOTO/WINCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

4) Winchester Police ID group fighting at En Ka Fair

After fights broke out at the En Ka Fair on May 18, Winchester Police investigated and found a group of Woburn teens had made a video, suggesting a fight at the fair. No weapons were shown during the incident.

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Joe's Pizza at 612 Main St. was replaced with December in Bangkok, Winchester's new Thai restaurant. December in Bangkok officially opened in October. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOAO-CAMERON HOPKINSON

5) Winchester's new Thai restaurant set to open by the end of September

Although it was set to open by the end of September, Charoen Thai, a small family-style Thai restaurant finally opened at 612 Main St., the space Joe's Pizza used to occupy, before October.

Owner Tisanamadee Szarkowski and her family also own and operate The Bangkok in Melrose or Kin Dee Thai & Pho in Lexington.

The owners originally planned to call the restaurant December in Bangkok.

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Karma Asian Fusion owner Iverson Guo is joined in the official ribbon cutting of his new restaurant in downtown Winchester on Oct. 8, 2024 by among others, Patriots players, the Pats mascot and local officials. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/TARA HUGHES

6) Karma holds grand opening in downtown Winchester

On Oct. 8, Thompson Street was shut down in Winchester Center as Karma Asian Fusion restaurant finally opened its doors to fanfare, including food, music and entertainment.

“We love this community,” owner Iverson Guo said at the time. “It has a lot of history and as you can see, the building is beautiful and elegant. And our food speaks for itself.”

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In ‘Methadone Mile,’ Justina Valentine plays Missy, a recovering addict dealing with family struggles in a tough Boston neighborhood. Alongside her is Lenny Clarke as her father and Johnny Hickey as a central character. COURTESY PHOTO

7) From Winchester to the big screen: ‘Methadone Mile’ debuts at Boston International Film Festival

“Methadone Mile,” a new pilot episode that delves into the heart of Boston’s opioid crisis, made its debut at the Boston International Film Festival on April.

The film, which has strong ties to the town of Winchester, was showcased during Session 9 of the festival at the Regent Theatre in Arlington.

Todd Rotondi produced the project and it is based on the experiences of his brother Andrew Rotondi, both Winchester natives.

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Tom and Celine Kimberly have opened Nouvelle Maison on Church Street. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOYCE WESTNER

8) Nouvelle Maison opens on Church Street in Winchester

Celine and Tom Kimberly opened Nouvelle Maison on Church Street in late October. The business features everything from fruits and vegetables to French chocolate bars and 110 different cheeses.

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Aidan McElhinney, left, with mom Kendra Winner during graduation from the fifth grade. COURTESY PHOTO/KENDRA WINNER

9) Winchester continues support for Aidan McElhinney, family after traumatic brain injury

A short trip to Winchester in December 2023 left Aidan McElhinney severely injured after his car struck a patch of black ice causing the 18-year-old's car to skid and crash.

In the year since, Aidan's mom, Kendra Winner, has been by his bedside during a slow rehabilitation process. In December, Winner gave an update on Aidan's condition and thanked Winchester residents for their continuing support.

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Inside Karma, chefs readied for the Oct. 8, 2024 grand opening. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTOS/TARA HUGHES

10) Karma now open on Thompson Street

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Karma Asian Fusion restaurant held a soft opening on Sept. 26 at 16 Thompson St. in a space formerly occupied by a Dunkin', a real estate office and a spa.

On Oct. 8, the restaurant held a big celebration with music, entertainment and food on Thompson Street.

The restaurant's specialty is sushi, but also features Chinese dishes. They also have Peruvian style sauces. Things are mixed and matched, hence the fusion element.

What else did you like?

One of our top recurring weekly features — How well do you know Winchester — had nearly 8,000 views in 2024. That means many residents are enjoying Joyce Westner and Frank Siteman's fun feature where you try to guess just what and where the spotlight photo is from.

How well do you know Winchester? Residents love the Winchester News recurring feature. Here are just some examples from 2024. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTOS

This year, Winchester News is adding Pet of the Week, where we encourage residents to send in photos of their pets — no matter what type they are. Just send us their name, give us an idea what they're like and include a photo if you have a favorite.

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Winchester pet owner Christy Mario send us this photo of her dog Cashew for our new Pet of the Week feature. And you can, too! COURTESY PHOTO/CHRISTY MARIO

We also encourage everyone to continue to send story ideas, press releases or just tip us off on things you think are important for our coverage in 2025.

Just send us an email at editor@winchesternews.org.

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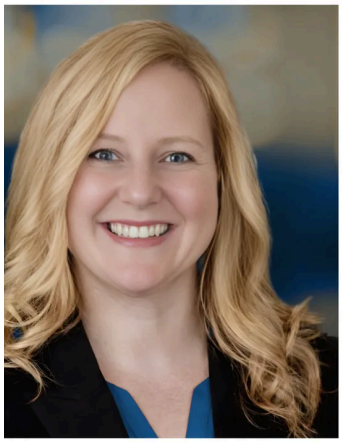

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses

NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for rente

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis

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as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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